

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A device for sucking up particles to be collected, the device comprising:
 - at least one collection chamber for accumulating the particles;
 - a suction device;
 - at least one reception chamber storing said suction device;
 - a partition separating said collection chamber from said reception chamber and having a partition surface, said partition having an inlet orifice formed therein for channeling an air stream from said collection chamber to said suction device, said inlet orifice of said partition coupling said collection chamber to said suction device in said reception chamber;
 - an air guide funnel having an entry surface forming a part of said partition surface;
 - an intervention guard element connected to the air guide funnel and projecting in a direction toward said collection chamber;
 - a filter bag disposed in said collection space for accumulating the particles.
2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said air guide funnel is provided, with respect to said entry surface, in said partition such that an approximately straight suction air stream is provided from said collection chamber to said suction device in said reception chamber.
3. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said entry surface of said air guide funnel is a substantially rectangular entry surface on a same side as said collection chamber.

4. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said air guide funnel narrows largely continuously in a direction of said suction device.
5. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein:
said suction device has a blower with an entry orifice formed therein; and
said air guide funnel has an exit surface having a substantially circular configuration and a diameter corresponding substantially to said entry orifice of said blower of said suction device.
6. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said air guide funnel is integrated as an independent structural part into said partition.
7. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said partition and said air guide funnel form a one-piece jointly produced structural part.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said intervention guard element is a dome-shaped ribbed body having gaps formed therein for a largely unobstructed routing of the air stream from said collection space through to said suction device.
10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising at least one filter element for purifying the air stream from said collection chamber to said suction device, said filter element is disposed upstream of said entry surface of said air guide funnel.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a collection chamber for accumulating particles;
a suction device generating an air flow;
a reception chamber housing the suction device;
a partition separating the collection chamber from the reception chamber
and defining an inlet orifice receiving the air flow from the collection chamber;
an air guide funnel connected to the partition at the inlet orifice and
extending away the collection chamber to an exit orifice, the inlet orifice having a
substantially rectangular cross-section and the exit orifice having a substantially circular
cross-section; and
an intervention guard element connected to the air guide funnel and
projecting in a direction toward the collection chamber.

14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the air
guide funnel and the partition are constructed together as a single integrally formed
structural part.

15. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the air
guide funnel, the partition, and the intervention guard element are constructed together as
a single integrally formed structural part.

16. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 13, wherein the
intervention guard element is a dome-shaped ribbed body having gaps formed therein for
a largely unobstructed routing of the air stream from the collection space through to the
suction device.

17. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 13, further
comprising a filter bag disposed in the collection space for accumulating the particles.

18. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 13, further comprising a filter element covering the inlet orifice and purifying the air flow from the collection chamber to the suction device.

19. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner, comprising:
a collection chamber for accumulating particles;
a suction device generating an air flow;
a reception chamber housing the suction device;
a partition separating the collection chamber from the reception chamber
and defining an inlet orifice receiving the air flow from the collection chamber;
an air guide funnel connected to the partition at the inlet orifice and
extending away the collection chamber to an exit orifice, the inlet orifice having a
substantially rectangular cross-section and the exit orifice having a substantially circular
cross-section;
an intervention guard element including a dome-shaped ribbed body
connected to the air guide funnel and projecting in a direction toward the collection
chamber; and
a filter bag disposed in the collection space for accumulating the particles.

20. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the air
guide funnel and the partition are constructed together as a single integrally formed
structural part.

21. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, wherein the air
guide funnel, the partition, and the intervention guard element are constructed together as
a single integrally formed structural part.

22. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 19, further
comprising a filter element covering the inlet orifice and purifying the air flow from the
collection chamber to the suction device.